

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT:

The Office of Water Resources' Nonpoint Source Program coordinates overall activities of the overall management plan to insure that goals and objectives are achieved and that components of the management plan achieved, in addition the Office implements many watershed based activities. Some of the details of the program include water quality monitoring, resolving nonpoint source pollution complaints, promotion of BMP planning, implementation of BMP's to control nonpoint source pollution, and enforcement support.

The Office of Water Resources Watershed Assessment Program is responsible for monitoring water quality using the watershed approach and providing this data and monitoring support to various programs and projects in West Virginia. The Pollution Prevention Program aims to reduce wastes at their source and assists various nonpoint communities by providing pollution prevention alternatives, and compliance assistance when ever possible. West Virginia's Division of Environmental Protection is working with partners to institute a watershed management approach to restore and protect water resources in the state. This approach compiles programs and activities existing already to achieve shared water resource management goals and objectives. The term "watershed" refers to a geographic delineation of an entire water body system and the land that drains into it. The basis for a watershed approach is to focus on water resource protection and restoration through integrated efforts within defined hydrologic regions.

Currently, many groups are coordinating together in this watershed management approach. Such groups include West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection, West Virginia Soil Conservation Agency, West Virginia Division of Forestry, West Virginia Bureau of Public Health, West Virginia Bureau of Commerce, U.S. EPA, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Office of Surface Mining, U.S. Forest Service, Monongahela National Forest, Natural Resources Conservation Service. and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Specific goals in the watershed management plan include:

1. Conduct restoration activities and best management practices implementation in the priority watersheds by 2020 as designated by the Watershed Management Framework and the TMDL process with the goal of achieving compliance with the Clean Water Act and fulfillment of all designated uses for all the state's watersheds.
2. Annually update each existing category (agriculture, construction, silviculture, and resource extraction) and includes additional sub-category updates on sludge land application, basin wide management, hydrologic modification, urban stormwater and septic tank retrofit to allow use of SRF monies.

3. To assess the impact of nonpoint source pollution on the surface and groundwaters of West Virginia and to identify the specific causes of nonpoint source pollution by 2010.
4. Implement a pilot project to serve as a template for the establishment and refinement of a state wide program to replace or repair failing septic systems by 2015.
5. Enforce the 404 permit through the 401 certification with compliance and technical assistance from the WV Soil Conservation Agency, WV Division of Natural Resources and the US Fish & Wildlife Service to achieve at least 90% compliance by 2005.
6. Identify streams in the priority watersheds, as designated by the Watershed Management Framework process, where stream bank erosion is causing water quality problems.
7. Provide assistance through the Landowner Stream Access Program to stabilize stream banks in the priority watersheds.
8. Assess the impact of urban runoff in the state's watersheds by 2005.
9. Develop an urban runoff program by 2005.